Dear Superintendents and Directors of Special Education:

Federal regulations permit States to reserve a portion of their IDEA allocations for State-level activities. Some portions of the funds must be used to carry out monitoring, enforcement, complaint investigation, and mediation. However, these funds may also be used to support technical assistance, professional development, paperwork reduction, behavioral interventions, technology, accessibility, transition programs, personnel shortages, alternative programming, alternate assessment, and generally the delivery of services by LEAs to improve results for children with disabilities. (34 CFR 300.704)

 In an effort to improve accountability and transparency in the distribution of these funds, the Indiana Department of Education will utilize a competitive process to award contracts and grants to providers of these products and services. The department will define project requirements and published selection criteria. Through a formal review process, the department will determine which applications best address the program requirements and are, therefore, most worthy of funding. The delivery of service or product will be monitored closely by the department to assure that the funds are being used to deliver quality products and services as intended.

There are a number of purposes that have already been identified as essential and therefore are not included in this survey because the IDOE is already committed to pursuing these products and services. These include:

1. Analysis of disproportionality data (Indicators 9 & 10)

2. Intervention for compliance findings on disproportionality (Indicators 9 & 10)

3. Accessible materials and equipment

4. Effective evaluation processes for findings with Indicators 11 & 12

5. Technical Assistance for Coordinated Early Intervening Services

6. Compliant and Effective Transition IEPs (Indicator 13)

7. Post-graduate follow up to produce indicator 14

8. Parent support network

9. Enhancements and technical support for ISTAR, ISTAR-KR, and ISTART-7

However, there are functions beyond the purposes listed above that may be considered important and necessary. This survey has been created to support the process of identifying additional State priorities. We are hopeful that you will take this, needs assessment seriously and use it to communicate your commitment to participating in the technical assistance that could be provided. Please complete this survey by September 4, 2009 in order for your input to be considered.

This survey can be found at the following link: http://mustang.doe.state.in.us/dg/sld/09-NeedsAssessment.cfm